**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

Complete the following, from Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 51-58

**Website that support online communities**

**Wikis**

1. Describe the nature of a wiki. A wiki is a website that allows users to enter and communally edit its content.
2. What are strengths of wikis? Ease of use, and multiple people can work on the same document and as such is a good source of free information.
3. Distinguish between, public, protected and private wikis. Public wiki’s allow anyone to edit any piece of information on the wiki, a protected wiki asks for verification by the original publisher before allowing edits to occur, a private wiki allows anyone to view it but only allows specific members to edit.
4. What is meant by soft security? Soft security is a form of security that assumes that users can be trusted and only tries to limit damages.

**Blogs**

1. What is a blog? A blog is a website that has only one page and acts like an online journal or diary.
2. Distinguish between a blog and a wiki. Blogs can only be edited by one person but can be viewed by anyone and those viewers can leave comments on the blog but a wiki allows for a large amount of users to edit and add to the information, another difference is that a wiki is usually used to share information a blog is to record what happened through the day for a spoilt little shit.

**Forums**

1. Describe the nature of a forum. A forum is a internet based message board or discussion website that supports online communities that wish to facilitate information exchange.
2. What is a thread? A thread is a collection of posts, displayed from oldest to latest.

**Purpose of an online community:**

1. To broadcast information and events using various tools
   1. List tools for broadcasting information.

A simple website, A blog set up for organisation, an email mailing list, and a twitter account.

* 1. What is a RSS feed?

A RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed allows users to receive content feeds from a variety of sources including the latest news headline.

1. To facilitate discussions, collaboration & information using tools
   1. What is required for collaborative problem solving to work well? A clear purpose, clearly documented processes will prevent misunderstandings, also a common purpose is needed.
   2. Distinguish between synchronous and asynchronous collaboration. Synchronous collaboration is a form of chat tools such as MSN that can be used for collaboration, if the team is unable to get together physically Skype is a handy videoconferencing solution, Asynchronous collaboration is the discussion forums or groups that can be used to discuss the dynamics of a problem.
2. To store and develop organisational knowledge
   1. List the tools for knowledge sharing and exchange. Some of the tools for knowledge sharing and exchange are the management and the understanding of the importance of the knowledge being shared/ exchanged.

**Characteristics of online communities, p 57**

Be aware of the following:

In setting up an online community characteristics of communities need to be taken into account:

1. Online communities appealing to gender groups.
2. Online communities appealing to special need.
3. Online communities appealing to cultural needs.
4. Age-restrictive and age-targeted communities.
5. Access requirements need also to be considered, (open or closed).

**Non-Technical Constraints on developing a website for a community, p 58**

1. Ensuring privacy in an online community
   1. Describe the strategies that co-ordinators can put in place to decrease the risk of privacy attacks. All passwords must a combination of letters, numbers, symbols and of minimum length.
   2. How does the Information Privacy Act protect privacy? It protects privacy as owners of online communities cannot use collected data for any other purpose without consent.
2. Copyright in online communities
   1. What copyright considerations need to be taken into account when setting up a community? Are the Images and specific pieces of text infringing on the copyright of others by broadcasting discussions and ideas in the open forum?
3. Human rights requirements
   1. What is contained in the Human Rights & Responsibilities Charter that covers members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity. An online community should not Encourage hate crimes, discriminate on the basis of gender, culture, or sexuality, or the encouragement of victimisation of members of the community.
4. Social online protocols
   1. What is meant by online protocols? Online protocols are community based rules that govern how members must act and how disagreements are resolved.